

BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT SOUTH
ST. PAUL, MINN.

JUNE 15, 1926.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. NEWTON of Minnesota, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12311]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12311) granting the consent of Congress to the State of Minnesota, or Dakota County, Washington County, or Ramsey County, in the State of Minnesota, or either or several of them, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge across the Mississippi River at or near South St. Paul, Minn., having considered the same, report thereon with amendments and as amended recommend that it pass.

The bill as amended has the approval of the War and Agriculture Departments, as will appear by the letters attached and which are made a part of this report.

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 1, line 5, after the word "Minnesota," insert "or either or several of them."

Page 1, line 6, after "operate a" insert "free."

Page 1, line 8, after "navigation" strike out the rest of the line and insert "at or near South Saint Paul, Minnesota, in."

Strike out all of lines 9 and 10, page 1, and in line 11, page 1, strike out "in Dakota County, Minnesota."

Page 2, line 4, change the comma after "1906" to a period and strike out the rest of the line.

Strike out all of line 5, page 2.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 26, 1926.

Respectfully returned to the chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

So far as the interests committed to this department are concerned, I know of no objection to the favorable consideration of the accompanying bill (H. R.

12311, 69th Cong. 1st sess.) granting the consent of Congress to the State of Minnesota, or Dakota County, Washington County, or Ramsey County, in the State of Minnesota, or either or several of them, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge across the Mississippi River at or near South St. Paul, Minn., if amended as indicated in red thereon.

As the navigable portions of the Mississippi River do not lie within the limits of a single State, the consent of Congress is required under section 9 of the river and harbor act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151), for the construction of a bridge thereover.

DWIGHT F. DAVIS, *Secretary of War.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, May 27, 1926.

HON. JAMES S. PARKER,

*Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. PARKER: Careful consideration has been given to the bill (H. R. 12311) transmitted with your letter of May 21 with request for a report thereon and such views relative thereto as the department might desire to communicate.

This bill would authorize the State of Minnesota, or Dakota County, Washington County, or Ramsey County, Minn., to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches across the Mississippi River, at a point between Government lot 1 on the east bank of the river in said Washington County and Government lot 8 on the west bank of the Mississippi River in said Dakota County, section 26, township 28, range 22 west, of the fourth principal meridian. The bill does not indicate whether the proposed bridge will be free or toll. It is suggested that the bill should be amended to provide that if tolls are charged for the use thereof the rates of toll should be so adjusted as to provide a fund sufficient to pay the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the bridge and its approaches, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the cost of the bridge and its approaches within a reasonable period of time, which should be stipulated in the bill. Provision should be made also that after a sinking fund sufficient to pay the cost of the bridge and its approaches shall have been provided, such bridge thereafter shall be maintained and operated free of tolls, or that the rates of tolls shall thereafter be so adjusted as to provide a fund not in excess of the amount necessary for the proper care, repair, maintenance, and operation of the bridge. If the bill is amended in line with the above suggestions, it will be without objection so far as this department is concerned.

Sincerely,

R. W. DUNLAP, *Acting Secretary.*